



Department of Justice

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U.S. ATTORNEY ROBERT PITMAN ANNOUNCES \$400,000 IN FEDERAL GRANTS TO COMBAT INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY THEFT IN THE WESTERN DISTRICT OF TEXAS

Grant Announcement Part of \$2.4 Million in Grants to Jurisdictions Across the Country

Counterfeit Goods Put U.S. Jobs, Economy and People's Health in Danger

United States Attorney Robert Pitman announced today that the San Antonio Police Department and the Austin Police Department will each receive \$200,000 in federal grant money to combat the purchase and sale of counterfeit and pirated products. Today's announcement is part of a broader national announcement by Attorney General Eric Holder and Deputy Attorney General James Cole of more than \$2.4 million in grants to 13 jurisdictions around the country to combat this problem. Intellectual Property (IP) theft refers to the violation of criminal laws that protect copyrights, patents, trademarks, other forms of intellectual property and trade secrets, both in the United States and abroad. IP crimes can destroy jobs and suppress innovation in the United States. Faulty products and improperly prepared counterfeit drugs can jeopardize the health and safety of consumers. In some cases, these activities are used to fund dangerous or even violent criminal enterprises and organized crime networks.

"IP theft is not a victimless crime. It can devastate lives and businesses as well as undermine our nation's financial stability, jeopardize the health of our citizens, and even threaten our national security," said Attorney General Eric Holder. "That's why the Justice Department is fighting back with these new investments to prevent and combat IP theft by enabling some of our key state and local partners to build on their records of success."

The San Antonio Police Department has been awarded \$200,000 in support of its Targeting Intellectual Property Project (TIPP). The goal of this project is the protection intellectual property rights and the public by reducing the number of pirated and counterfeited goods sold or manufactured and prosecuting those parties responsible for distributing, trafficking in, manufacturing or otherwise profiting from these illegal items. To meet this goal, the grantee will use these additional resources to conduct covert and field Investigations; establish investigation partnerships with other law enforcement agencies and trade industry investigators and the share the intelligence gathered through these operations; as well as increase seizure activity, arrests, prosecutions, law enforcement training, public outreach activities, as well as business and vendor education initiatives.

The Austin Police Department has been awarded \$200,000 to implement the City of Austin Intellectual Property Crime Enforcement (IPCE) Program, the primary goal of which is increased criminal investigation, prosecution, prevention, and education activities related to IP theft. New and continuing program objectives are: to ensure proper programmatic and financial management; to increase collaboration and streamline project activities; to implement

process improvements within the Austin/Travis County White Collar Crimes Task Force; to purchase evidence storage supplies; to ensure deconfliction with other law enforcement entities; to enforce criminal laws related to intellectual property crime; and, to educate the public, vendors, retailers, and other stakeholders.

“These grants reflect our commitment to identify and prosecute the violation of intellectual property rights in San Antonio and Austin,” stated United States Attorney Robert Pitman. “Intellectual property theft is like any other form of theft in that it deprives a legal owner of the fruits of his or her creativity and industry.”

These grants are provided through the department’s BJA, and will assist 13 jurisdictions in enforcing criminal laws related to IP theft, through improving their ability to enforce, investigate, prosecute and implement prevention initiatives that address IP crimes. The grants include providing reimbursement of expenses incurred in performing criminal enforcement operations, such as overtime payments, storage fees for seized evidence, training and technical assistance.

“Preventing and combating intellectual property crimes constitutes a top priority for our nation’s Department of Justice,” said Deputy Attorney General James M. Cole. “With the grants we announce today, we make good on our firm commitment to work closely with a variety of federal, state, local, and international partners to more effectively fight IP crime, provide direct support to critical law enforcement allies, and strengthen our ability to protect American innovation.”

Other jurisdictions receiving grants today include: Baltimore, Md. County Police Department; the California Department of Justice; Central Point, Ore.; Cook County, Ill.; Los Angeles City Attorney’s Office; New York County District Attorney’s Office; Orlando, Fla.; Riverside County, Calif.; Sacramento County, Calif.; St. Louis Metropolitan Police Department; and the Virginia State Police.

The Justice Department, through the Deputy Attorney General’s IP Task Force, has made preventing IP theft a top priority. In the past three years, the department’s Bureau of Justice Assistance has awarded \$10,108,800 in grants to 34 law enforcement agencies to tackle the problem. BJA has awarded a total of \$13,383,002 in grants to fight IP theft.

The Justice Department is also working with the National White Collar Crime Center and the National Association of Attorneys General to provide training and technical assistance to law enforcement on the topic of IP crime investigation. In addition, the department has partnered with the National Crime Prevention Council to educate American consumers about the dangers of purchasing and using counterfeit goods. For more information on the NCPC’s efforts on this issue, please visit: www.ncpc.org/topics/intellectual-property-theft.

For more information on the jurisdictions receiving grants, please visit: www.ojp.gov/funding/funding.htm.

For more information on the DOJ’s Bureau of Justice Assistance, please visit: www.bja.gov.

For more information on the Justice Department’s continuing efforts to stop IP theft, please visit: www.justice.gov/dag/iptaskforce.

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